



SELECT BOARD MEETING Minutes

February 11, 2025

6:00pm –Special Town Meeting directly
followed by Select Board Meeting

At Broadcast Studio &
Via Zoom * & on YouTube

Resolution: We, the Raymond Select Board, recognize our individual and collective responsibilities as leaders and representatives of our community. To this end, we pledge to conduct ourselves in a manner befitting these roles and duties. We pledge and encourage others to "Be the Influence" and to recognize that decisions matter.

Select Board members in attendance: Teresa Sadak (Vice Chair), Samuel Gifford, Denis Morse, Derek Ray

Select Board members absent: Rolf Olsen (Chair)

Town Staff in attendance: Joseph Crocker (Parks & Recreation Director); Melanie Fernald (Town Clerk); Wayne Jones (Fire inspector); Sue Look (Town Manager); Bruce Tupper (Fire Chief); Nathan White (Public Works Director)

1) **Called regular meeting to order** at 6:11pm by Vice Chair Sadak with a quorum present.

2) Minutes of previous meetings

a) January 14, 2025

Mr. Morse noted a name that was captured incorrectly under Public Comment, and will need to be amended.

Motion to approve with proposed change by Mr. Morse. Seconded by Mr. Ray
Unanimously approved

b) January 31, 2025

Tabled (members in attendance for the 1/31/2025 meeting are not present to act upon this item)

3) Old Business

a) Consideration of Voting Method of the Town Meeting Warrant – Select Board

- Via secret ballot or at Open Town Meeting

Vice Chair Sadak noted that that last time this was discussed, there was a tie vote; that's why this is on the agenda again.

Motion to hold Annual Town Meeting by Secret Ballot by Ms. Sadak. Seconded by Mr. Ray.

The following residents spoke in favor of an Open Town Meeting:

- Louise Lester, Hartley Lane
- Grace Leavitt, Leavitt Road
- Brian Walker, Rolfe Road
- Jennifer Danzig, Pulpit Rock Road
- Peter Leavitt, Leavitt Road

Louise Lester asked what the argument for a Secret Ballot Town meeting would be.

Vice Chair Sadak explained that her feelings are the convenience of the full day to cast a vote and the absentee ballot option with a Secret Ballot vote. Voters can come when they're available between 7am and 8pm. Full day election day and absentee ballots draw a much greater turnout.

Peter Leavitt, Leavitt Road - the Select Board has been deciding on the voting method for years.

Mr. Morse stated that State law says there will be an Annual Town Meeting unless there is a good reason to decide otherwise.

Jenifer Danzig, Pulpit Rock Road – people will have to decide what their priorities are – can bring children to the Town Meetings

Saturday, May 19th, 2007 Annual Town Meeting Article #3 passed at Open Town Meeting – “to see whether the town will vote to permit the Board of Selectmen to order a referendum (secret ballot) election at their discretion.”

Kaela Gonzalez, Webbs Mills Road – Open town Meeting allows for discussion on funding of items that may be voted down via secret ballot because of “sticker shock” prices

Cliff Small, Webbs Mills Road – traditionally Town Meetings used to be held on a Saturday in March. It should be a Saturday, in person Open Town Meeting.

Grace Leavitt, Leavitt Road – were voters aware of what they were voting on in that 2007 vote?

Jackie Sawyer, Ball Drive – thinks that especially this year, with the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan being a warrant item, the community should have the opportunity to discuss and gain clarification through an Open Town Meeting.

Mr. Ray – numbers of voter turnout and a better representation of the town through Secret Ballot election. His unofficial straw poll showed 23-1 in favor of a secret ballot vote. Anyone can attend any Select Board Meeting, review the recordings later, or via Zoom – if people want to be involved, they have the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Morse – thinks a reduction in Select Board meetings from 2 meetings per month in the past to one meeting a month currently, we owe residents an opportunity to discuss the issues.

Mr. Gifford – believes that an Open Town Meeting can be successful if there is enough communication and promotion ahead of the meeting.

Mr. Ray – is there a way to have hybrid version? There can be an opportunity for open discussion, then do the vote by Secret Ballot.

Town Manager Look noted that there are two Public Hearings scheduled for this year, which is more than has been done in the past. This was done to help promote

discussion and voter education on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Kaela Gonzalez – can we alternate days and/or times of the public hearings to make them more accessible for commuters?

Mr. Ray – a “hybrid” option gives time to become informed, think about the issues, then vote. At an Open Town Meeting, that all happens in one sitting.

Town Manager Look read off the schedule for budget meetings.

Motion to hold Annual Town Meeting by Secret Ballot by Ms. Sadak. Seconded by Mr. Ray.

Motion failed (vote 2-2-1: Ayes: Sadak, Ray; Nays: Gifford, Morse; Absent: Olsen)
This item will be moved to the next meeting’s agenda.

4) New Business

- a) Discussion of 2025 Comprehensive Plan Draft – Peter Leavitt and Kaela Gonzalez, Co-Chairs of the Comprehensive Plan Committee

Kaela Gonzalez – noted the draft Comprehensive Plan has been deemed complete and consistent with the State’s Growth Management Act. Asked for review of the Plan ahead of the recommendations vote on 3/18. Some items in the Plan are State requirements.

Peter Leavitt – asks that the Select Board submits recommendations, changes, suggestions to the Comprehensive Plan Committee (Kaela & Peter) ahead of time; Planning board, Town Staff, etc.

Noted that any significant proposed changes to the draft would need to go back to the Comprehensive Plan Committee, North Star Planning, and the State.

Mr. Ray – could people meet with them to ask simple/minor questions? Yes.

Vice Chair Sadak – is there any issue about specifically naming agencies and groups? What if those agencies/groups do not continue to do business while the Comprehensive Plan is still in effect? Would that be an issue?

- b) Consideration of Accepting a Resignation from the Planning Board – Sue Look, Town Manager

- Mike Richman has submitted his resignation

Motion to accept the resignation of Mike Richman from the Planning Board by Mr. Morse. Seconded by Mr. Ray.

Motion passes (vote: 3-0-2 Ayes: Sadak, Morse Ray; Absent: Gifford, Olsen)

- c) Consideration of Appointing a New Member to the Planning Board – Sue Look, Town Manager

- Jacqueline Sawyer has been put forth by the Planning Board for consideration. She was a member of the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Motion to approve the appointment of Jacqueline Sawyer to the Planning Board by Mr. Morse. Seconded by Mr. Ray.

Motion passes (vote: 3-0-2 Ayes: Sadak, Morse Ray; Absent: Gifford, Olsen)

d) Consideration of Granting a Tax Abatement – Curt Lebel, Contract Assessor

- Map 006 Lot 056-22 - \$45,500 in valuation which equals \$782.60 in taxes

Motion to approve an abatement of \$782.60 for Jennifer & Tyler Smith by Mr. Ray.
Seconded by Mr. Morse.

Motion passes (vote: 3-0-2 Ayes: Sadak, Morse Ray; Absent: Gifford, Olsen)

e) Consideration of Acceptance of a Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant – Bruce Tupper, Fire Chief

- The Maine Fire Chief Association's Forestry Committee and four Forest Rangers met on December 19, 2024, to review applications for this year's VFA grants. We are pleased to inform you that the Committee awarded your fire department / town \$2,490.00 in grant funds (to be used with an equal share of local funds) to purchase the following items: 10 Brush Shirts, 10 Brush Pants, 15 Fire Helmets.

Fire Chief Tupper spoke to the details of this grant.

Motion to accept the grant as noted above by Mr. Morse. Seconded by Mr. Ray.

Motion passes (vote: 3-0-2 Ayes: Sadak, Morse Ray; Absent: Gifford, Olsen)

f) Consideration of Accepting a Donation to the Raymond Village Library – Richard Dowe, Librarian

- \$8,500 from Paul F Martin

Wants to work with Finance director to create an endowment fund.

Motion to accept the donation as noted by Mr. Morse. Seconded by Mr. Ray.

Motion passes (vote: 3-0-2 Ayes: Sadak, Morse Ray; Absent: Gifford, Olsen)

g) Consideration of Accepting a Grant for the Raymond Village Library – Richard Dowe, Librarian

- \$2,000 from Acorn Hill Foundation

Motion to approve as presented by Mr. Morse. Seconded by Mr. Ray.

Motion passes (vote: 3-0-2 Ayes: Sadak, Morse Ray; Absent: Gifford, Olsen)

5) Public Comment

Grace Leavitt, Leavitt Road – where do things stand with the formation of the committee to look at the possible future uses of Jordan-Small Middle School?

6) Selectman Comment

Mr. Morse – was surprised to see that the budget hearings are formatted as Select Board meetings with the Budget-Finance Committee invited.

That decision was made by the Chair of Select Board.

Ms. Sadak – thanks to road crew, great work on keeping the roads cleared through the storms.

7) Town Manager's Report and Communications

Town Clerk Fernald is now internationally certified.

JSMS Visioning Committee is being formulated. A handful of applications have been received, but since it's such a large undertaking, wider participation is the goal. The call for more volunteers will be advertised in the Roadrunner/Windham Eagle. We hope to have recommendations for the committee for the March meeting.

a) Confirm Dates for Upcoming Regular Meetings

- March 11, 2025
- April 8, 2025

b) Upcoming Budget Meetings

- Wednesday, February 26, 2025 – Dept Head #1 – 6:00pm
- Thursday, February 27, 2025 – Dept Head #2 – 6:00pm
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – Budget Workshop – 7:00pm (after regular meeting)
- Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – Warrant article review/recommendations – 6:00pm
- Thursday, April 3, 2025 – Final Warrant Approval – 6:00pm
- Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – Public Hearing #1 – 6:00pm
- Tuesday, May 13, 2025 - Public Hearing #2 – 6:00pm
- Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – Annual Town Meeting Vote at JSMS Gym – 7am-8pm

8) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:37pm by Mr. Morse. Seconded by Mr. Ray
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Fernald, Town Clerk